

MEXICO 20 CENTAVOS

1943 – 1974

A presentation by Gary H



The Krause Standard Catalog of World Coins lists these as weighing 10 grams, with a diameter of 28.5 mm, in bronze.



The obverse depicts the country name and national arms. The reverse shows the value split by a liberty cap, above Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan(Tei-outi-we-ka-n), and volcanoes Ixtaccihuatl(Istak-siwatl) and Popocatepetl(Popoka-tepetl) in the background. Edges are plain.

The series spans KM 439 (1943 – 1955), 440 (1955 – 1971), and 441 (1971 – 1974).

No coins were produced from 1947 through 1950, 1958, 1961-62, 1972.

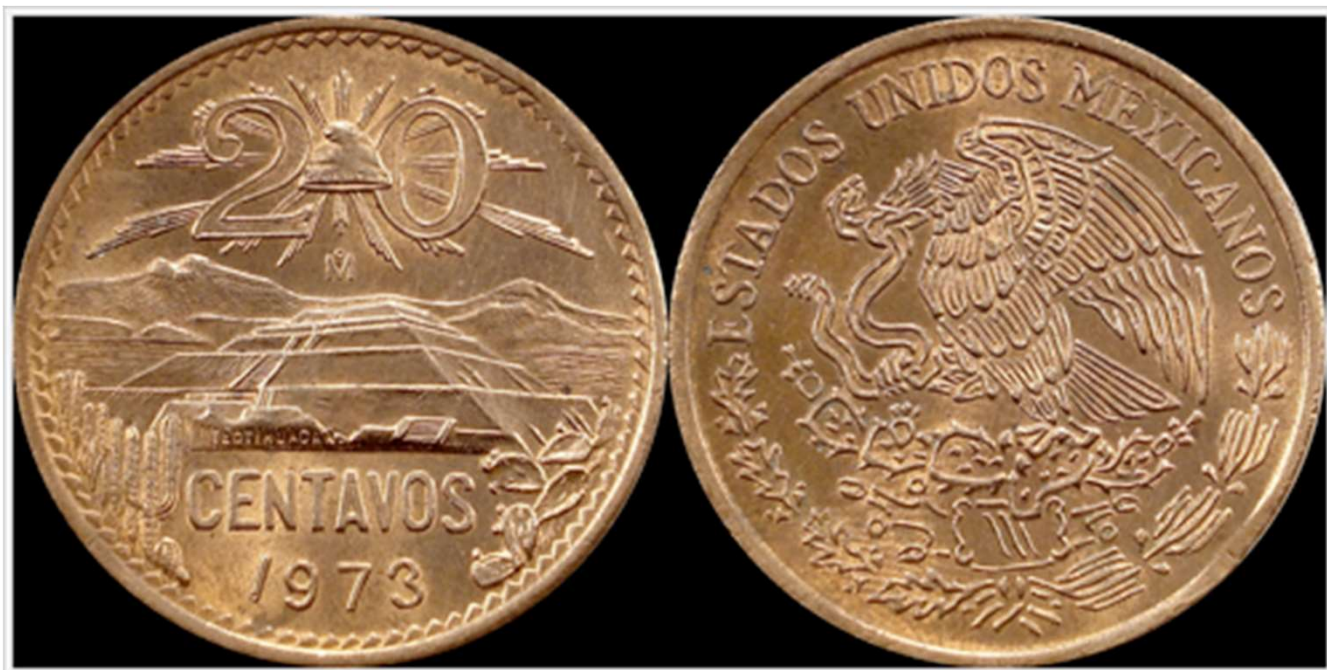
Total count is 26 coins, including 2 coins in different KM numbers.



KM 439 (1943 – 1955)



KM 440 (1955 – 1971)



KM 441 (1971 – 1974)

Why did I collect these? I started going through foreign coin bins in shops and shows around 1987. Seems those big bronze pieces caught my attention. Nice design, and back then you could find really nice examples for a few cents. After a while, I started buying nice uncirculated pieces. Unfortunately, I did not make a list until recently, so ended up with several of the same date. Once I made a list, I saw I was very close to completing the series. One day I mentioned it to Chris Palmer who immediately set about searching the internet for me. He was successful in locating those last pieces. My thanks for the help!





Everyone always asks....What's the key date? For this series, my answer is...there are two. Everyone considers the 1959 to be the key date, and by the numbers, it is. Mintage was 6,017,000. It gets pricey in uncirculated grades.



The other date? 1952. Its mintage was 6,500,000 but it is just as difficult, if not more, to find a problem free high end uncirculated example. The next lowest mintage is just over 14 million. The highest is 1944, with over 83 million, which is why they are easily found in foreign bins everywhere.



Design changes in mid 1955 resulted in two coin types that year. The mintage totals were lumped together for that year, but the KM 440 was harder to find in uncirculated, which gives validation to the thought that it has less mintage. The design change was to the obverse, where the size of the national arms was increased.



Design changes in 1971 also resulted in two coin types that year, and mintage totals were again lumped together. Both are readily available. The design change is again on the obverse, where someone came up with this flat, stylized (I use that term loosely) national arms. I am ever thankful the series ended shortly thereafter so I would not have to purchase many of that horrible design.